

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 02990 081301Z

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SUBJ: CZECH FONMIN CHNOUPEK VISITS DENMARK

REF: PRAGUE 2262

SUMMARY: CZECH FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK VISITED DENMARK ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 3. HE LEFT A VERY GENERAL DRAFT DECLARATION ON COOPERATION AND DISCUSSED CLOSER TRADING RELATIONS. HIS ARRIVAL WAS PRECEDED BY A CRITICAL PRESS, BUT OTHERWISE THE VISIT PASSED WITHOUT INCIDENT. END SUMMARY.

1. CZECH FOREIGN MINISTER BOHUSLAV CHNOUPEK ARRIVED IN DENMARK AUGUST 31 FOR A THREE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT, IN RETURN FOR THE VISIT PAID BY DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN TO PRAGUE IN APRIL LAST YEAR. HE HAD MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IVAR NORGAARD AND PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN, AND WAS RECEIVED IN AUDIENCE BY QUEEN MARGRETHE AT AMALIENBORG.

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2. ACCORDING TO OUR FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE, THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS DISCUSSED WHAT THE CZECH CALLED THE GOOD RESULTS ACHIEVED THUS FAR IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF THE HELSINKI DECLARATION AND THE DESIRABILITY OF EXPANDED TRADE BETWEEN THE EEC AND COMECON. (THE DANES HAVE HELD A NEGATIVE TRADE BALANCE WITH THE CZECHS FOR SOME YEARS.) THE CZECH LEFT A DRAFT DECLARATION ON COOPERATION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE DANISH GOVERNMENT IN WHICH VERY GENERAL WISHES FOR MORE EXCHANGES IN CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND OTHER AREAS ARE EXPRESSED. (WE ARE TOLD THAT THE DUTCH HAVE RECEIVED A SIMILAR DRAFT WHICH THEY ARE EXPECTED TO SHELVE, AS THE DANES WILL PROBABLY DO WITH THEIRS.)

3. COMMENT: CHNOUPEK ARRIVED IN THE WAKE OF A PRESS COVERAGE DESCRIBING HIM AS MOSCOW'S HANDYMAN AND QUESTIONING THE WISDOM OF DEALING WITH SUCH A PUPPET FIGURE. THIS PROVOKED A STRONG REACTION FROM THE DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER (SEE COPENHAGEN 2967) WHO HAS PURSUED A POLICY OF INCREASED CONTACT WITH THE EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES. OTHERWISE, THE VISIT WENT SMOOTHLY AND NO AREAS OF FRICTION WERE EXPOSED.
DEAN

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